

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

15 September 1948

16-62

SIGNIFICANCE OF movement of SOVIET AND SATELLITE NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL

It is estimated on the basis of tabulation of all available material that the recent withdrawal of Soviet and Satellite personnel since 1 January 1948, particularly dependents, does not indicate any impending change in Soviet foreign policy nor does it portend the incidence of war.

Rather, it is believed that the purpose of the movement, aside from routine recall for transfer and consultation, is:

- a. to reduce personnel in Soviet missions abroad in order to:
  - (1) reduce the security risks arising from disaffection of these individuals;
  - (2) minimize the chances for loss of prestige to the USSR through defection and its attendant adverse publicity, both abroad and in the Soviet orbit.
- b. to insure the proper environment for the ideological indoctrination of school-age children of Soviet personnel abroad;
- c. to a lesser degree, to hold dependents in the USSR as hostages to discourage defection of Soviet representatives abroad.

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